

Leon County Government
Fiscal Year 2007 Budget

Guardian Ad Litem

Organizational Code: 001-547-685

Mission Statement

The mission of the Guardian ad Litem Program is to advocate for the best interests of children who are alleged to be abused, neglected, or abandoned, and who are involved in court proceedings.

Advisory Board

None

Summary of Services Provided

1. Provide children with legal representation and advocacy services.
2. Preserve children's physical safety and emotional well-being and protect children from further harm.
3. Make verbal and written recommendations for children's permanent placement in a stable and nurturing home environment.
4. Attend trials, hearings, staffings, and mediations.

Accomplishments

1. In FY2005, the Guardian Ad Litem served a total of 952 abused and neglected children. Len County accounted for 62% and most were ten (10) years of age and younger.
2. In response to Legislative Action, the Guardian Ad Litem Program began advocating for the extension of court jurisdiction for those children who were about to age out of the Child Welfare/Dependency Systems.
3. The Guardian Ad Litem Program assisted the State Attorneys Office in the successful prosecution of several cases involving the death of a child or egregious abuse.
4. The Guardian Ad Litem Program worked collaboratively with Big Bend Community Based Care, representatives from the Leon County School System and the Leon County Foster Parent Association to raise awareness of the need for additional foster homes in the area.
5. The Guardian Ad Litem Program partnered with the Second Judicial Court, Children's Home Society, Florida Baptist Home, Big Bend Community Based Care and several other stakeholders to host a day of celebration honoring adopted children.

Current Year Notes

This program is being recommended at an increased funding level. These recommendations include:

1. Funding is provided for an increase in operating supplies. Total fiscal impact is \$1,561.

Out-Year Notes

There are no Budget Issue requested in FY2008 through 2011, with the exception of routine salary, wage, and benefit adjustments.

Objectives / Performance Measures	Indicator	Units	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Budget	FY 2007 Budget
001-547-685 Guardian Ad Litem					
• # of Leon County cases	Input	#	257	334	300
• # of Leon County children served	Input	#	464	603	600
• # of volunteers	Input	#	251	270	250

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Budgetary Costs		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Adopted	FY 2007 Continuation	FY 2007 Issues	FY 2007 Budget	FY 2008 Budget
Operating		16,771	21,515	21,365	1,561	22,926	22,926
	Total Budgetary Costs	<u>16,771</u>	<u>21,515</u>	<u>21,365</u>	<u>1,561</u>	<u>22,926</u>	<u>22,926</u>
Funding Sources				FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Adopted	FY 2007 Budget	FY 2008 Budget
	001 General Fund			16,771	21,515	22,926	22,926
			Total Revenues	<u>16,771</u>	<u>21,515</u>	<u>22,926</u>	<u>22,926</u>